

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Celsr1 is required for the generation of polarity at multiple levels of the mouse oviduct

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## ABSTRACT

The oviduct is an important organ in reproduction where fertilization occurs, and through which the fertilized eggs are carried to the uterus in mammals. This organ is highly polarized, where the epithelium forms longitudinal folds along the ovary-uterus axis, and the epithelial multicilia beat towards the uterus to transport the ovulated ova. Here, we analyzed the postnatal development of mouse oviduct and report that multilevel polarities of the oviduct are regulated by a planar cell polarity (PCP) gene, *Celsr1*. In the epithelium, *Celsr1* is concentrated in the specific cellular boundaries perpendicular to the ovary-uterus axis from postnatal day 2. We found a new feature of cellular polarity in the oviduct – the apical surface of epithelial cells is elongated along the ovary-uterus axis. In *Celsr1*-deficient mice, the ciliary motion is not orchestrated along the ovary-uterus axis and the transport ability of beating cilia is impaired. Epithelial cells show less elongation and randomized orientation, and epithelial folds show randomized directionality and ectopic branches in the mutant. Our mosaic analysis suggests that the geometry of epithelial cells is primarily regulated by *Celsr1* and as a consequence the epithelial folds are aligned. Taken together, we reveal the characteristics of the multilevel polarity formation processes in the mouse oviduct epithelium and suggest a novel function of the PCP pathway for proper tissue morphogenesis.

**KEY WORDS:** *Celsr1*/Flamingo, Planar cell polarity, Cilia, Epithelial morphogenesis, Oviduct, Cell shape

## INTRODUCTION

The oviduct, or fallopian tube, is a tube through which ovulated oocytes and zygotes are transported from the ovary to the uterus. Morphologically, the oviduct comprises a simple columnar epithelium and a thin stromal layer surrounded by smooth muscle layers named myosalpinx (Stewart and Behringer, 2012). Oviduct epithelium forms folds that run in parallel with the ovary-uterus (longitudinal) axis, and these folds are thought to increase the epithelial surface area and ensure the transport of the oocyte. In mature mice, 17–19 epithelial folds exist in the infundibulum, and all of these folds are longitudinal to the oviduct (Agduhr, 1927).

Oviduct folds develop postnatally, as there are only one to two folds in the neonatal oviduct, and the number of folds gradually increases until 6 weeks of age (Agduhr, 1927). As development proceeds, the number of folds with the stroma inside is increased, and the height of the fold also rises (Agduhr, 1927). The presence of longitudinal epithelial folds in the oviduct is evolutionarily conserved in birds, amphibians and mammals (Bakst, 1998; Stewart and Behringer, 2012; Wake and Dickie, 1998). Folding of a cellular sheet is observed widely throughout the animal body, e.g. the convolutions of the brain and the gastric folds in the stomach or small intestine. The structure of folds is a good model to understand three-dimensional organogenesis or the morphological changes of an epithelial sheet. However, the mechanism(s) underlying the formation of folds has not been closely examined. How the fold is formed and how the folds are aligned longitudinally in the oviduct are open questions.

The oviduct epithelium comprises two types of cells: ciliated and secretory. About 80 percent of epithelial cells are ciliated in the infundibulum (Agduhr, 1927; Stewart and Behringer, 2012; Yamanouchi et al., 2010), which is the region close to the open end of the oviduct. Although the myosalpinx contractions also play roles in the transportation of ova, the ciliary movements at the infundibulum are sufficient to generate oviductal flow and to carry the oocytes towards the uterus (Halbert et al., 1989; Halbert et al., 1976; Shi et al., 2011). The orchestrated direction of ciliary motion is thought to be a key to ensure oocyte transport. This alignment of the polarity of ciliated cells is an example of planar cell polarity (PCP), which is the polarity of epithelial cells in a plane perpendicular to their apical-basal axis. Recent studies have revealed that PCP genes regulate ciliary polarity in frog epidermis (Mitchell et al., 2009; Park et al., 2008), the mouse brain ventricle (Guirao et al., 2010; Hirota et al., 2010; Tissir et al., 2010), the mouse embryonic node (Antic et al., 2010; Hashimoto et al., 2010; Song et al., 2010), the zebrafish Kupffer's vesicle (Borovina et al., 2010; May-Simera et al., 2010) and the mouse trachea (Vladar et al., 2012). However, as yet, the roles of PCP genes in the oviduct epithelium have not been studied.

A group of PCP gene products form an asymmetric complex between neighboring cells to regulate planar polarity (Adler, 2012; Goodrich and Strutt, 2011; Wang and Nathans, 2007). One member of this group, *flamingo*, also known as *starry night*, encodes a seven-pass transmembrane cadherin localized at specific cellular edges in the *Drosophila melanogaster* wing (Chae et al., 1999; Usui et al., 1999). In the mouse, three orthologs of *flamingo* – *Celsr1*, *Celsr2*, *Celsr3* (cadherin EGF LAG seven-pass G-type receptor) – have been identified (Formstone and Little, 2001; Hadjantonakis et al., 1997; Usui et al., 1999). Mice carrying a point mutation in *Celsr1* are reported to have planar polarity abnormalities in the inner ear hair cells and hair follicle cells, as well as defects in neural tube closure (Curtin et al., 2003; Devenport and Fuchs, 2008).

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In this study, we analyzed the roles of *Celsr1* in the development of the mouse oviduct. *Celsr1* protein localized in epithelial cellular edges in a polarized way from postnatal day 2 (P2). By observing the oviducts of *Celsr1*-deficient mice (Ravni et al., 2009), we found *Celsr1* was required for the orchestration of the direction of ciliary movements, the proper epithelial cell shapes and arrangements, and the orderly patterned alignment of epithelial folds in the longitudinal direction.

## RESULTS

### Postnatal development of the mouse oviduct

We focused on the infundibular region of the oviduct. The development and maturation of oviduct epithelium was analyzed in postnatal stages. We surgically opened the oviduct longitudinally to observe the apical epithelial surface. We mainly examined the cells on the top and at the lateral side of the epithelial folds in this study, because it was technically difficult to observe the cells in the deep regions of the fold. However, analyses of histological sections suggest that similar developmental processes occur over the entire lumen of the oviduct epithelium (data not shown). Two types of cells, namely, cells with a dome-shaped apical domain and cells with a flat surface, were analyzed by using bright-field microscopy to image living tissue (Fig. 1A). To more precisely classify the cell types during development of the oviduct, we stained with phalloidin and antibodies against acetylated tubulin; by using confocal microscopy, five cell types were identified as follows (Fig. 1): (1) cells without any cilia; (2) cells with a primary cilium; (3) cells with apical cell membrane protrusions; (4) cells with short immature multicilia; and (5) cells with matured long multicilia. The relative numbers of these cell types changed as development progressed, and the number of multiciliated cells increased (6% at P2 to 76% at 11 weeks old). We also found that the apical surface of cells is elongated in shape along the ovary-uterus axis, which will be described later.

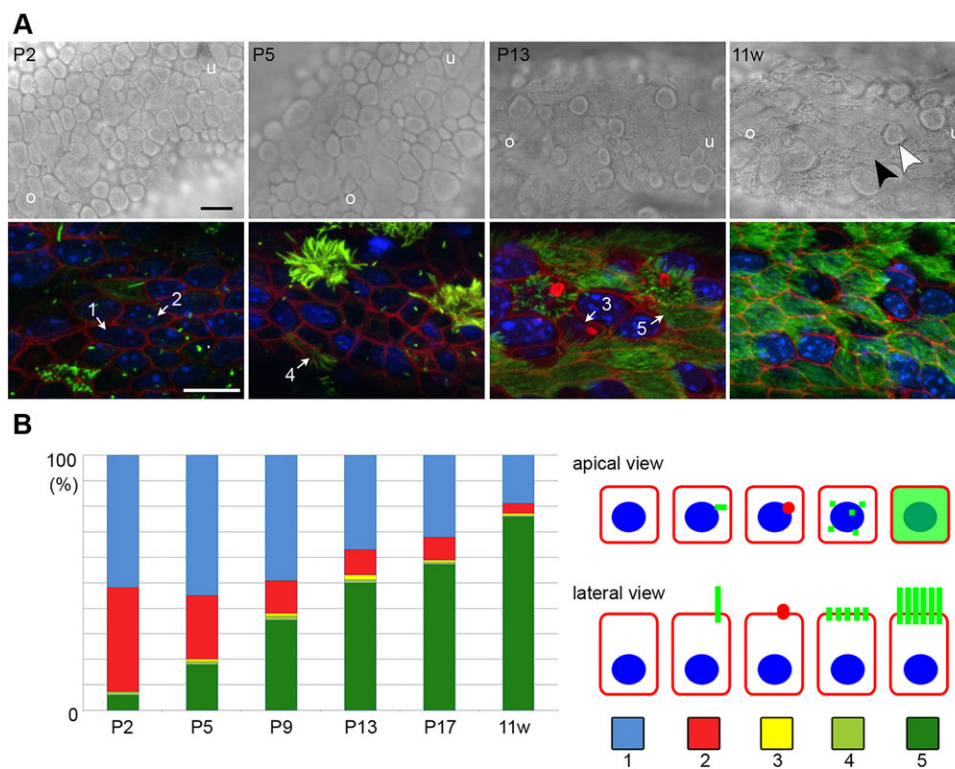
To examine the functional significance of multicilia, their movements were analyzed with a high speed charge-coupled device

(CCD) camera (supplementary material Movie 1). Consistent with the morphological observations, the number of cells with beating cilia increased during development. Cells with short motile cilia did not show clear polarity in the direction of the ciliary motion. As the number of cells with longer cilia accumulated, the population of cells with cilia moving directionally along the ovary-uterus axis increased.

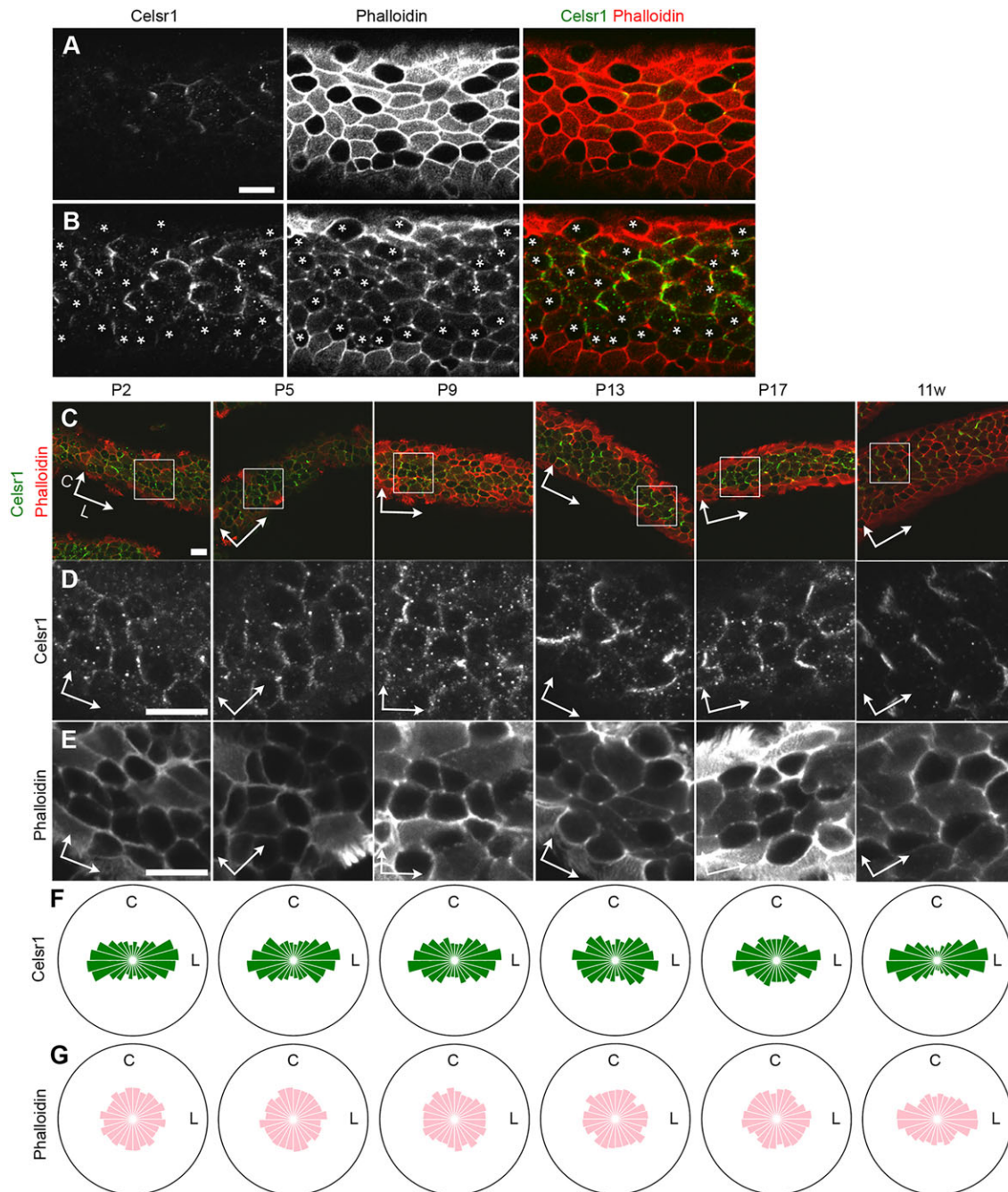
### *Celsr1* protein localization is polarized in oviduct epithelium

Because the direction in which the multicilia beat aligned with the ovary-uterus axis, these features might reflect the polarity of each epithelial cell, known as PCP. We examined the expression of PCP factors in adult mouse oviducts by using reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR and detected the expression of *Celsr1*, *Celsr2*, *Vangl1*, *Vangl2*, *Dvl1*, *Dvl2*, *Pk2*, *Pk3*, *Fz1*, *Fz2*, *Fz3*, *Fz6*, *Fz8* and *Ptk7* (data not shown). We focused on *Celsr1* in this study.

*Celsr1* proteins were enriched at circumferential cell-cell boundaries, which are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the oviduct (Fig. 2). Multiciliated cells could be distinguished by their strong phalloidin (F-actin) signal at the apical plasma membrane in addition to the cell-cell boundaries (Fig. 2A). *Celsr1* was localized to the apical side of the lateral membrane of the epithelial cells, not only in the cell boundaries between multiciliated cells, but also in the cell boundaries between multiciliated cells and non-ciliated cells (Fig. 2B). The cell boundaries between non-ciliated cells had weaker *Celsr1* localization. Next, we analyzed the localization of *Celsr1* close to the apical surface at several developmental stages (Fig. 2C-E). By using mathematical transformation (Aigouy et al., 2010), we asked in which domain of the cellular outline *Celsr1* preferred to localize at the single cell level. *Celsr1* was localized in a polarized fashion at all stages from P2 to adult (Fig. 2F). This polarized localization was not evident in the phalloidin signal (Fig. 2G). *Vangl2* protein, one of other PCP factors, also showed similar expression and polarized localization (Fig. 3A). These data suggest that the conserved nature of the PCP pathway is functional in the oviduct epithelium.



**Fig. 1. Epithelial cell composition during oviduct development.** (A,B) The oviduct infundibulum at P2 (postnatal day 2), P5, P13 and 11 weeks (11 w). (A) The upper panels present snapshot images of beating cilia captured by a high-speed camera. The related time-lapse movies are shown in supplementary material Movie 1. Cells with a dome-shaped apical domain and cells with a flat surface are marked by white and black arrow head, respectively. o, ovary side; u, uterus side. The bottom panels show maximum intensity projection (MIP) images of confocal images of oviduct infundibular epithelium stained with Hoechst (blue; nucleus), an antibody against acetylated  $\alpha$ -tubulin (green; cilia) and phalloidin (red; F-actin). The representative cells for each cell type (1-5; corresponding with the right-hand image in B) are marked by arrows. Left, ovary side; right, uterus side. Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m. (B) The population of cell types observed in the oviduct infundibulum at each stage. Each color corresponds to the cell type shown on the right panel. The number of cells analyzed at each stage are 4677 (P2), 6614 (P5), 3966 (P9), 4406 (P13) and 5070 (11 w), with at least six oviducts analyzed for each stage.

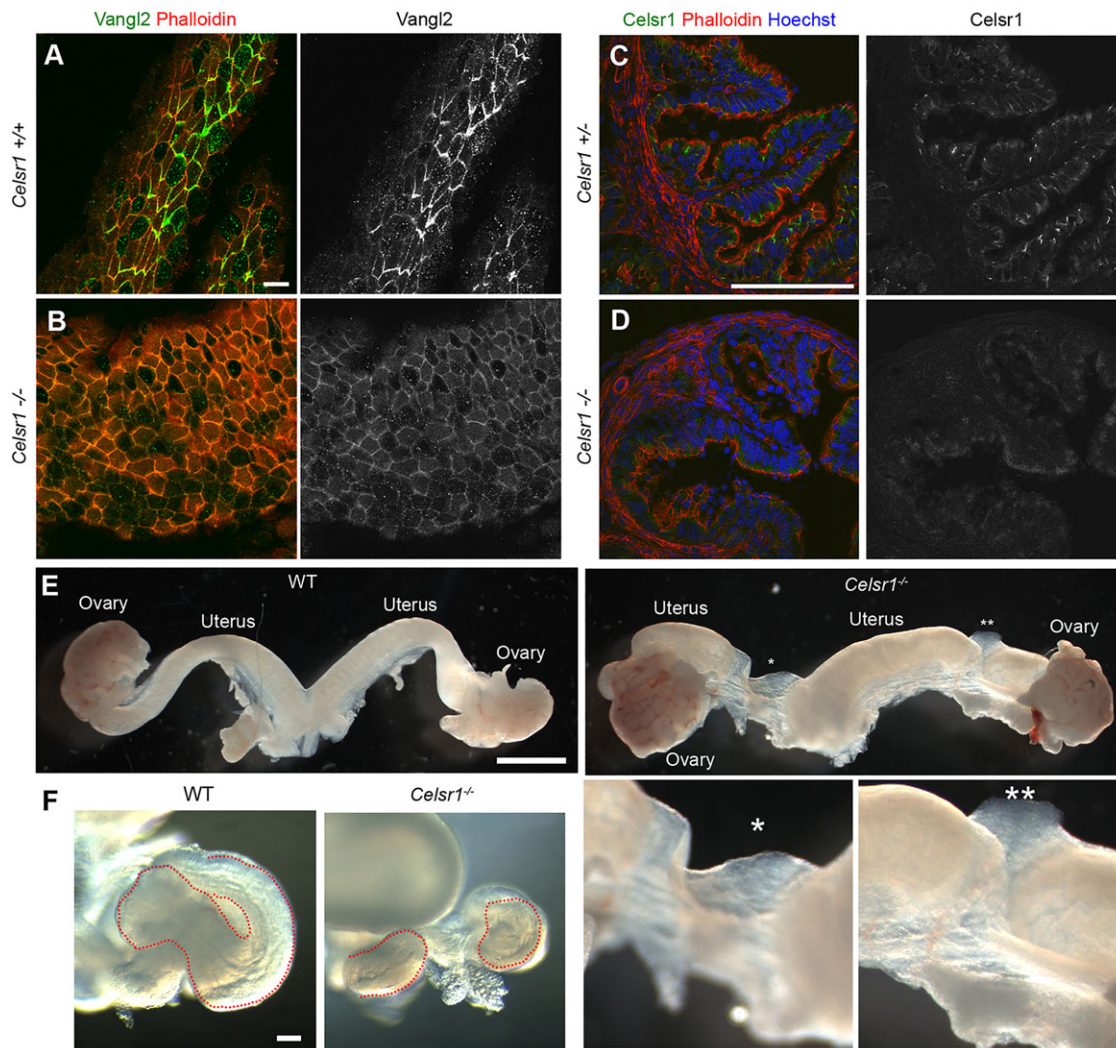


**Fig. 2. Celsr1 protein localization in oviduct epithelium.** (A-E) Confocal microscopy images of oviduct epithelium stained for Celsr1 and with phalloidin. (A,B) The images with a focal plane near the apical membrane (A) and with a focal plane 2 μm more basal to the apical membrane (B). Asterisks indicate non-ciliated cells, which were defined by a lack of intense apical surface phalloidin staining. The ovary side is to the left and the uterus side is to the right (A,B). Note that because the oviduct epithelium is not flat and forms folds, a different position in the apical-basal axis of each epithelial cell is captured. (C) Staining for Celsr1 and staining with phalloidin at several developmental stages. (D,E) Higher magnification of single channel images of the area indicated in C showing Celsr1 (D) and phalloidin staining (E). Arrows indicate the axes; L, longitudinal axis (the ovary-uterus axis); C, circumferential axis. (F,G) Distribution and orientation of the Celsr1 (F) and phalloidin signals (G). The angle (0–180°) is determined by using quantitative analysis (see Materials and Methods) for each cell. For example, cells with an angle around the longitudinal axis represent strong localization of Celsr1 at the cell-cell boundaries perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. Note that angles are measured relatively, according to the longitudinal axis (as determined by the angle of the running fold). In the rose diagram, angles are classed into 12 classes (15° for each class) and visualized in a point symmetry manner. The area size of each class indicates the rate of the cell numbers for each stage, and the outer circles indicate the 50% line. The number of cells analyzed for each stage are 630 (P2), 339 (P5), 480 (P9), 170 (P13), 521 (P17) and 614 (11 weeks, 11 w). Scale bars: 10 μm in A-E.

### The *Celsr1*-deficient mouse shows abnormal female reproductive tract formation

To understand the functions of *Celsr1*, we analyzed the oviducts of homozygous mutant mice that lacked *Celsr1* (Ravni et al., 2009). These *Celsr1*-deficient mice, which have

a deletion in the genome corresponding to exons 26–29, are reported to have impaired coordination of hairs in the skin (Ravni et al., 2009). In *Celsr1* mutant oviducts, clear Celsr1 staining was not detected in the sections (Fig. 3C,D), and Vangl2 signals were weak and uniformly distributed at



**Fig. 3. Localization of PCP proteins and the morphology of oviducts and uteri in wild-type and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** (A,B) Confocal images of Vangl2 staining in the oviducts of 11-week-old wild-type (*Celsr1*<sup>+/+</sup>) (A) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> (B) mice. (C,D) Cryosections of oviducts from 4-week-old *Celsr1*<sup>+/-</sup> (C) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> (D) mice stained with an antibody against Celsr1, phalloidin and Hoechst. The oviducts were sectioned transversely; thus, the folds were also sectioned perpendicular to their longitudinal axes. *Celsr1* heterozygote mice were considered comparable to the wild-type controls here. (E,F) Examples of the female reproductive tracts of 4-week-old wild-type (WT) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice. The gap regions in the *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> uterus are marked by asterisks. Higher magnification views of these regions are shown in the lower panels on the right. (F) The morphology of *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> and WT oviducts. Dotted lines indicate the oviduct outline. Scale bars: 10 μm in A,B; 100 μm in C,D,F; 1 mm in E.

cell boundaries (Fig. 3B), suggesting that the PCP signaling pathway is compromised.

Abnormalities of the female reproductive tract were found in the mutant mice. We examined 43 *Celsr1* mutant female mice at different developmental stages. Of these, 21 animals displayed a gap of the uterus (Fig. 3E). Discontinuities of oviduct were also observed in 12 animals (Fig. 3F). These abnormalities did not always occur on both sides of the same animal. In addition, all of the female mutants were infertile (data not shown).

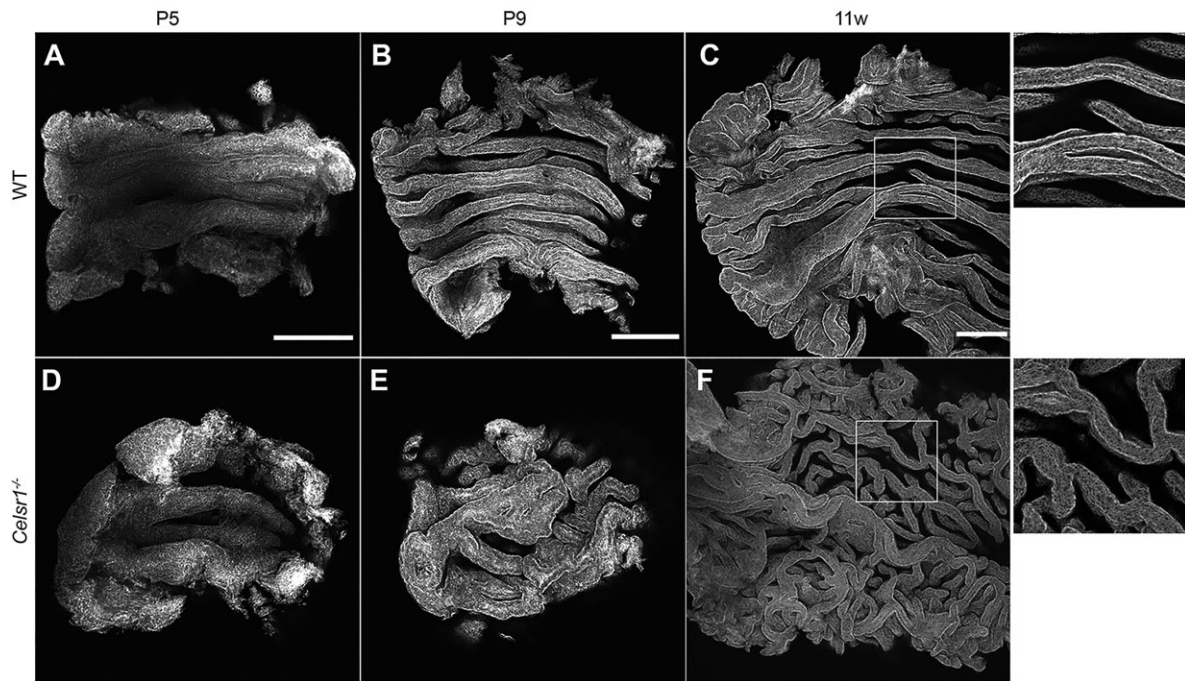
#### The *Celsr1*-deficient mouse shows abnormal fold formation in the oviduct

We then examined the lumen of the infundibular region. The morphology of epithelial folds was also disorganized in the mutant oviducts (Fig. 4). The folds formed a straight shape along the longitudinal axis during the later maturation stages, and the folds seldom branched, regardless of their size and depth in the wild-type animals. In *Celsr1* mutant oviducts, the abnormalities in the shape

of the folds were not evident at P5 (Fig. 4D), but were obvious after P9 (Fig. 4E,F). Although the folds were formed, ectopic and abnormal branches were observed. Folds ran, not in a straight manner, but in a winding way, and were not parallel to the longitudinal axis. Thus, *Celsr1* is essential for the alignment of the folds and the suppression of the fold branching.

#### The *Celsr1*-deficient mouse shows abnormal ciliary polarity in oviducts

Next, we examined the direction of ciliary movement in each cell, as well as the coordination of movement between neighboring cells in the oviduct epithelium. In wild-type adult animals, multicilia in each cell beat in the same direction, and this directional movement was also coordinated among neighboring cells along the longitudinal axis (Fig. 5A; supplementary material Movie 2). We also analyzed the coordination of ciliary movements by applying fluorescently labeled beads onto the surgically opened oviduct. In wild-type specimens, the beads were transported along the longitudinal folds



**Fig. 4. The shape of epithelial folds during oviduct maturation.** Luminal side of oviduct infundibulum regions from wild-type (A–C) and *Celsr1*<sup>−/−</sup> (D–F) mice in an open-book preparation were stained with phalloidin at P5, P9 and 11 weeks (11 w). MIPs of multiple confocal images are shown. Higher magnification images of regions indicated by the squares in C and F are shown on the right. Left, ovary side; right, uterus side. Scale bars: 100 μm.

(Fig. 5; supplementary material Movie 3). The basal feet of beating cilia with 9+2 ultrastructure are known to be oriented in the same direction in a cell (Gibbons, 1961). Accordingly, we found that the oviduct cilia and their basal feet oriented in the same direction, as determined by using transmission electron microscopy (TEM) (Fig. 5E,E′). Quantitative analysis also indicated that the value of circular variance of basal feet orientation in each cell was low (Fig. 5G). Cilia in neighboring cells were also oriented in a similar direction (Fig. 5E,E′).

In *Celsr1*-deficient mice, the proportion of multiciliated cells was comparable to that observed in wild-type mice (Fig 5H, Fig 6A,B), although the arrangement of ciliated cells and non-ciliated cells appeared to be different (Fig. 6A,B). When ciliary movements were analyzed, a large number of cilia moved in directions that were not parallel to the ovary-uterus axis (Fig. 5B; supplementary material Movie 2). Ciliary movements were coordinated locally, even in the mutant, although this coordination was not maintained over a broader area (e.g. several cells wide). Next, we examined the capability to transport beads in the mutant oviduct (Fig. 5D; supplementary material Movie 4). Beads were certainly moved; however, the bead movements were not coherent in one direction. Some beads moved in a reverse direction, others moved slowly in local swirling patterns. By using TEM analysis, we found that the structure of each mutant cilium was basically the same as that of wild type, but the directionality of the cilia was not well coordinated (Fig. 5F,F′). Some cilia were directed in a similar orientation within a small area in a cell; however, not all cilia were in the same orientation over the entire cell surface. This is also suggested by the quantitative analysis, which showed that, on average, the value of the circular variance of basal feet orientation in each cell was higher than that of the wild type, but still lower compared with the conditions under which all of the basal feet were completely randomly oriented (Fig. 5G). The orientation of cilia in neighboring cells was also not aligned (Fig. 5F,F′). Additionally, we did not find any apparent differences in the length or density of cilia between the two genotypes

(Fig. 5I,J). Thus, *Celsr1* is dispensable for ciliogenesis itself but is indispensable for the proper orientation of cilia.

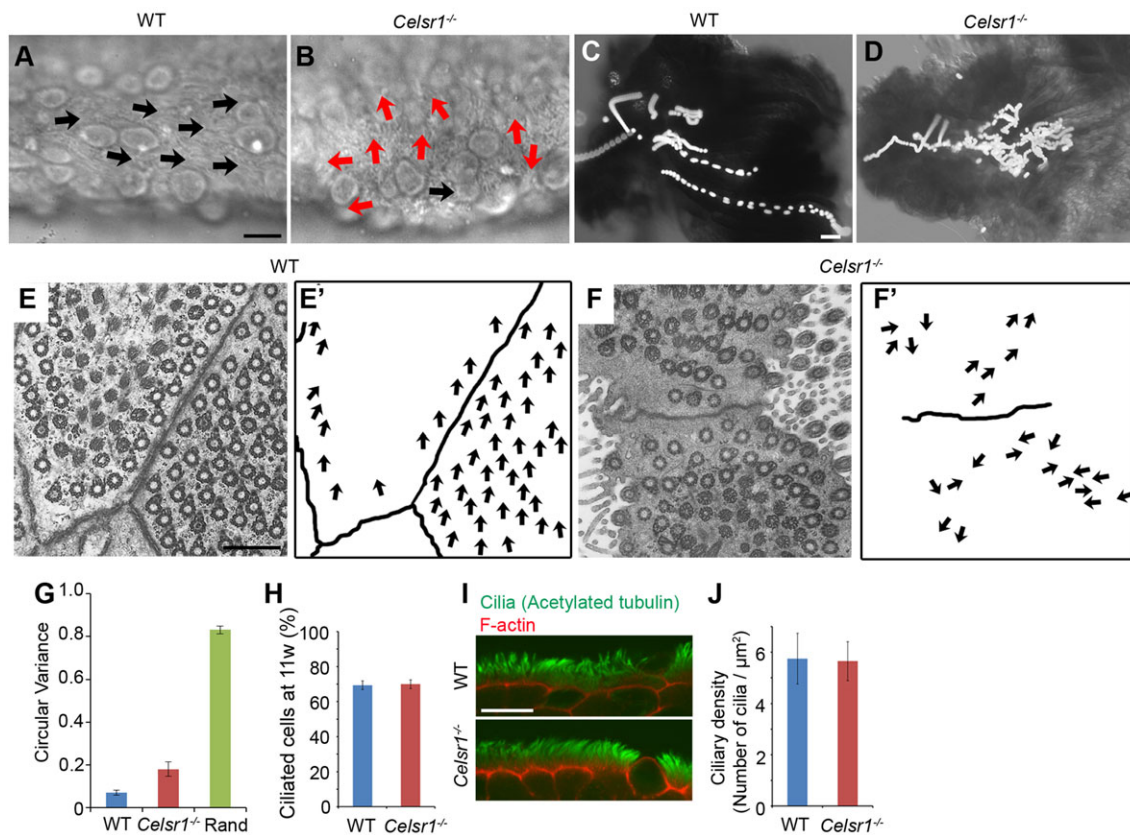
#### Epithelial cells are elongated along the ovary-uterus axis in a *Celsr1*-dependent manner

We analyzed the changes in the apical shape of the cells during the postnatal development of the infundibulum (Fig. 6). Phalloidin staining of oviduct that had been opened longitudinally revealed that each apical surface of the cell in wild-type adult mice was elongated along the oviduct fold in shape (Fig. 6A). The average longest to shortest diameter ratio (resembling the aspect ratio) of cell shapes was more than 1.8 at P5 in the wild type (Fig. 6C). Thus, cells were already elongated by P5, and this ratio increased to a maximum at P17. At all stages examined, the orientation of the cellular long axis was distributed in parallel to the oviduct fold (Fig. 6D), suggesting that the cells are elongated along the ovary-uterus axis during postnatal development. Cells during earlier stages, including perinatal stages, were technically difficult to analyze quantitatively.

In the mutant oviducts, the shape of the apical surface of cells was less elongated, but was closer to being round in shape, and there was no clear correlation in the angles of cell elongation with the fold orientation (Fig. 6B). These differences in comparison with wild type were even more evident when the cell shapes were quantitatively analyzed. The average longest to shortest diameter ratio was smaller after P13 in the mutant (Fig. 6C). In addition, the distribution of the orientation of the long axis was already different from that of the wild type at P5, and the angles were less correlated with the fold orientation (Fig. 6D). These results suggest that the polarity of cell geometries, i.e. elongation and orientation, are formed depending on the presence of *Celsr1*.

#### The shapes of oviduct epithelial cells are primarily regulated by *Celsr1*

To examine the relationship between the cellular geometry and the fold morphology, we performed mosaic analyses by



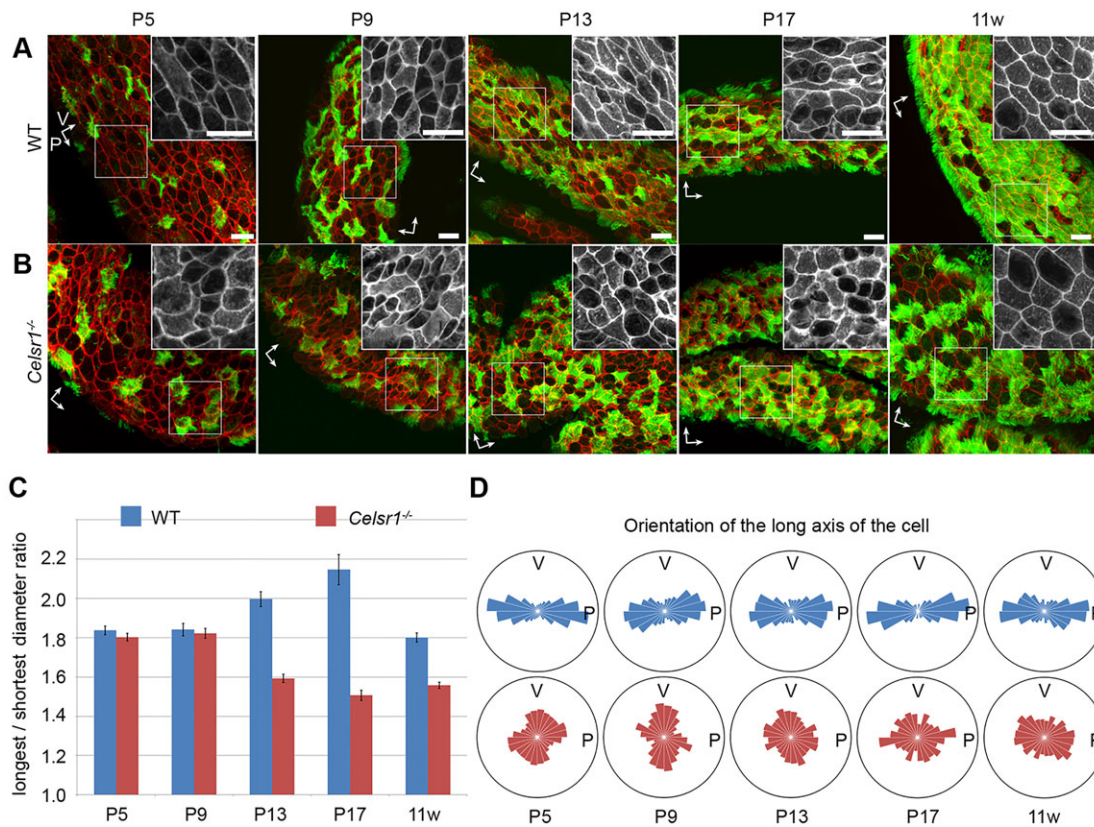
**Fig. 5. Direction of ciliary movement and flow in oviducts.** Ciliary movement in (A) wild-type (WT) and (B) *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice at 15–17 weeks of age. Images were taken with a high-speed camera after an open-book preparation (see also supplementary material Movie 2). The arrows indicate the direction of ciliary movement in each cell. (C,D) Time-stack images of fluorescent beads placed on WT (C) and mutant (D) epithelium. Images were taken from time-lapse movies captured at 1.5 s intervals (supplementary material Movies 3, 4). The bead transport assay was performed on four oviducts of females at 18 weeks for each genotype. Left, ovary side; right, uterus side (A–D). (E,F) TEM images of the ciliary basal feet in the oviduct epithelium of WT (E) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> (F) mice. (E',F') The arrows indicate the direction of the basal feet (the angle of protrusion of each circular basal body) for each cilium. Note that we could not capture all the cilia and/or the whole apical surface of the epithelial cells in electron microscopy images due to the fold structure of the epithelium. (G) The circular variance of the basal feet directions in each cell. TEM images that captured 10 or more basal feet in a cell were analyzed.  $n=48$  cells (WT) and 20 cells (*Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup>). 'Rand' indicates the expected value of circular variance when the direction of each cilium is completely randomized with the same number of cells and cilia as that in *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup>. Mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. (H) Percentage of ciliated cells in the epithelium at 11 weeks.  $n=5$  mice each. (I) Confocal images of the oviduct stained with an antibody against acetylated tubulin, and phalloidin. (J) Ciliary density obtained from TEM images.  $n=27$  cells (WT) and 26 cells (*Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup>). Mean  $\pm$  s.d. Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m in A,B,I; 100  $\mu$ m in C,D; 1  $\mu$ m in E,F.

generating chimeric mice with *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> or wild-type (as a control) embryonic stem cells that were tagged by an enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP)-labeled histone 2B nuclear marker (Fig. 7). Wild-type clones showed normal cellular geometries (Fig. 7A–D). Large mutant clones (>1000 cells) showed abnormal cellular geometries and ectopic fold branches, as seen in *Celsr1* mutants (Fig. 7E–H). Interestingly, smaller mutant clones were found in straight folds, whereas these cells showed a less elongated cellular morphology (Fig. 7K,O), and randomized cellular orientation in some cases (Fig. 7P), compared with the wild-type cells in the same straight epithelial fold. The abnormal cellular geometries in the normal straight epithelial fold, sharing the equivalent environment, suggested that the cellular geometries are intrinsically regulated through *Celsr1* and not by extrinsic cues from the surrounding environment. This is also in accordance with the finding that the cellular geometry defects are already present at earlier stages (P5) in the *Celsr1* mutant, before the occurrence of the fold abnormality (P9) (Fig. 4, Fig. 6D). These observations provide evidence that cell shape is primarily regulated through the PCP pathway.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we focused on a PCP gene, *Celsr1*, and found that *Celsr1* functions in the orchestration of polarities at multiple levels in the mouse oviduct, i.e. from the subcellular structures to the overall tissue morphology.

Because detailed descriptions of mouse oviduct development at the cellular level have been lacking, we initially examined the changes in cellular components during the oviduct maturation. The multicilia were formed only in a small number of cells at P2, and the oviduct lumen was covered by cells that had a rounded surface (Fig. 1A). The coincidence of the increase of the multiciliated cells and the decrease of the rounded surface cells (with and without primary cilium) suggests that these rounded surface cells might differentiate into multiciliated cells. In some cases, it has been suggested that the cells with primary cilia will differentiate into multiciliated cells (Jain et al., 2010). Further lineage analyses are needed to validate this possibility in the oviduct. In quail oviduct ciliogenesis, the basal foot orientation of each cilium is first randomized when the basal bodies dock with apical membrane, and then orchestrated into the same orientation as ciliogenesis proceeds (Boisvieux-Ulrich et al., 1985). Our observations of ciliary



**Fig. 6. Cellular geometries during development of the oviduct epithelium.** (A,B) Oviducts are stained with phalloidin (red) and antibodies against acetylated tubulin (green) for wild-type (WT) (A) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> (B) mice. Higher magnification views of the phalloidin signal are shown as insets. P and V labeled arrows, indicate parallel and vertical to the fold angle, respectively. Note that 'P' is not always parallel to the longitudinal axis of the oviduct in the case of mutants. Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m. (C) The mean longest to shortest (longest/shortest) diameter ratio of epithelial cells for each developmental stage is shown. Error bars indicate s.e.m. (D) Distribution of the orientation of the long axis of apical cells. In the rose diagram, angles are classed into 12 classes (15° for each) and visualized in a point symmetry manner. The area of each class indicates the cell numbers for each stage and genotype, and the outer circles indicate the 50% line. The number of cells analyzed at each stage were – P5: 581 WT, 680 mutant; P9: 438 WT, 250 mutant; P13: 292 WT, 277 mutant; P17: 131 WT, 117 mutant; 11 weeks: 456 WT, 501 mutant.

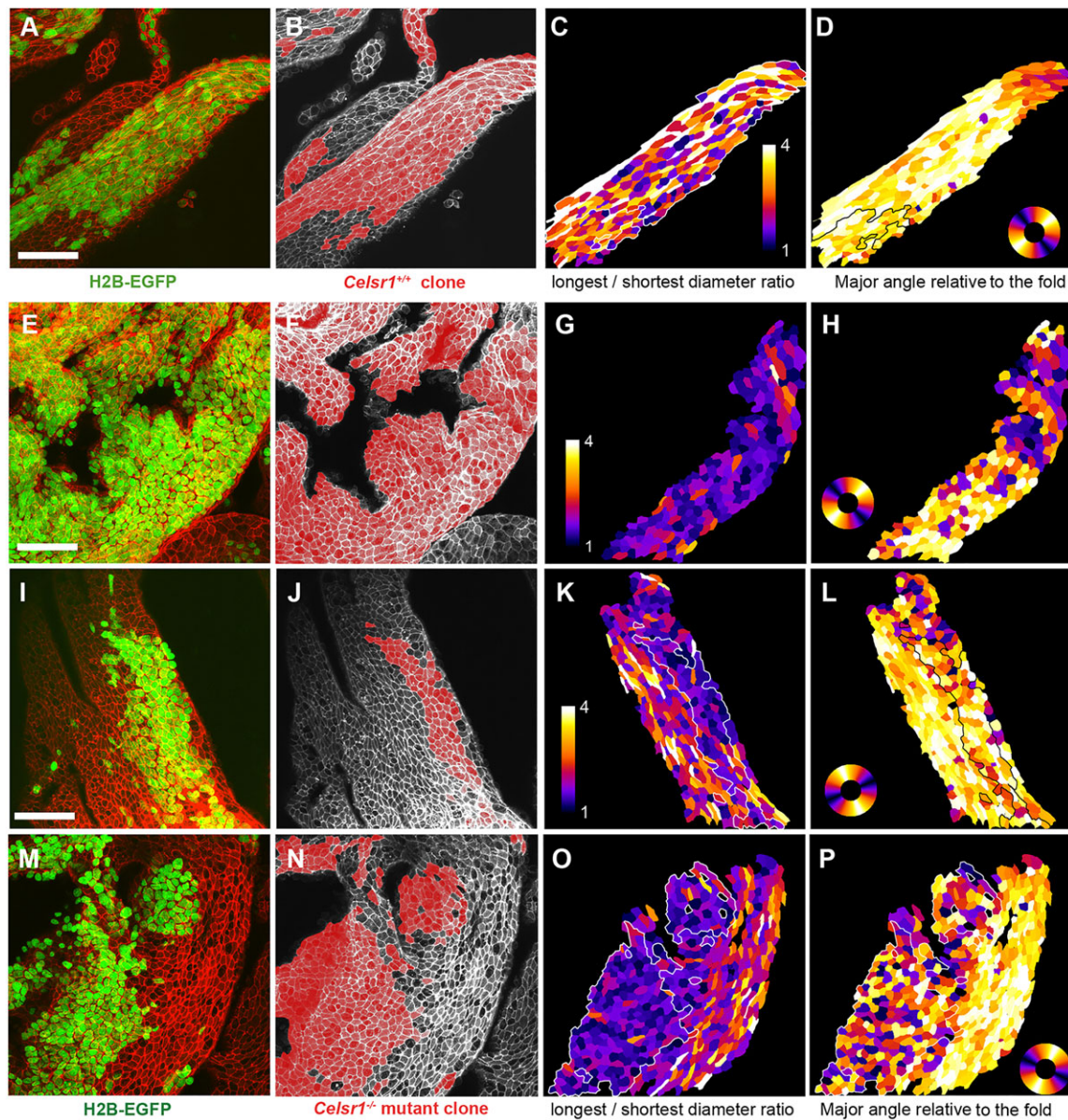
movement are consistent with the idea that cilia do not have an obvious polarity when the cilia are short and immature.

In the *Celsr1*-deficient adult oviducts, the movements of multicilia were not unidirectional, and the directional flow from the ovary to the uterus was not established (Fig. 5). As a result, the transportation of ova was also impaired in the cultured longitudinally opened oviduct of these animals (data not shown). Although the cilia did point in a similar direction within small local regions of a *Celsr1* mutant cell (Fig. 5F-G), the cilia did not face the same direction over the whole cell nor between neighboring cells. These results might suggest that *Celsr1* functions to coordinate the ciliary orientation within each cell and the neighboring cells, and other *Celsr1*-independent factors (e.g. actin and microtubules) regulate the ciliary polarity at the very local level, as suggested previously by Werner and colleagues in *Xenopus* (Werner et al., 2011), although there might be some residual *Celsr1* function in the *Celsr1* mutant mice.

Changing cell shape is a basic cellular behavior during dynamic tissue morphogenesis (Fristrom, 1988). Various morphogenetic events are known to coincide with cellular shape changes (Condic et al., 1991; Taniguchi et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2012), and a few reports suggest that regulation of apical cell shape is required for proper morphogenesis (Nelson et al., 2012; Taniguchi et al., 2011). Although the correlation between PCP signaling and polarized cellular geometries has been shown to be poor in flies (Aigouy et al., 2010; Bosveld et al., 2012), here we report that the geometric

characteristics of the cellular apical surface are regulated by the PCP pathway in mouse oviduct epithelium. Interestingly, in the mosaic analyses, wild-type cells that were adjacent to *Celsr1* mutant cells also showed abnormal cellular geometries (Fig. 7K,O). This could be explained by the ability of 'core PCP' proteins to locally alter PCP between neighboring cells (Taylor et al., 1998; Vinson and Adler, 1987), although *Drosophila* Flamingo has been suggested to act in a cell-autonomous manner in the wing (Usui et al., 1999). The localization of PCP proteins in the wild-type border cells might be disturbed on the membrane that faces the mutant cells because they lack a binding partner, and the function of *Celsr1* could be partially affected in the border cells, leading to the observed reduction in elongation. These observations also imply that *Celsr1* regulates cell geometries through the PCP pathway. Mechanisms of how the PCP pathway polarizes cell geometries should be elucidated in the future.

The abnormal morphology of the uterus is also reported in another PCP gene mutant mouse *Vangl2*<sup>Lpt</sup> (Vandenberg and Sassoon, 2009). The uterine epithelium of E18.5 *Vangl2*<sup>Lpt/Lpt</sup> or *Vangl2*<sup>Lpt/+</sup> displays morphological defects, and half of *Vangl2*<sup>Lpt/+</sup> adult females show an enlarged and fluid-filled uterus. Although enlarged and fluid-filled uteri were also observed in *Celsr1* mutants (data not shown), the postnatal oviduct development could not be analyzed in *Vangl2*<sup>Lpt/Lpt</sup> mice because of perinatal lethality resulting from neural tube closure defects (Copp et al., 1994; Strong and Hollander, 1949). Therefore, further analyses, such as



**Fig. 7. Mosaic analyses with wild-type cells and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mutant cells.** (A–P) Mosaic analysis of wild-type cells (A–D) and *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> cells (E–P) in wild-type oviduct. The left two columns show the MIP of confocal images of phalloidin-stained oviduct epithelium of 3-week-old chimeric mice (red in A,E,I,M and white in B,F,J,N). Wild-type cells or *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mutant clone cells were identified by using histone 2B-EGFP (green signals in A,E,I,M). Note that although there were also EGFP signals in mesenchymal cells, we marked only epithelial clones with red (B,F,J,N), and the selected clones of epithelial cells were used for further analyses. The two columns on the right show cellular geometrical analyses. The longest to shortest (longest/shortest) diameter ratio (C,G,K,O) and the angle of long axis (major angle) relative to the fold (D,H,L,P) of each cell are shown in color code. The boundaries of the mutant cells analyzed are indicated by a white or black line. We observed more than 200 clones of various sizes in 48 images from six 3-week-old mutant chimeric oviducts, and more than 100 clones in 30 images from eight 3-week-old wild-type chimeric oviducts. Scale bars: 50 μm.

those using conditional *Vangl2* inactivation, are needed in order to establish whether the multilevel polarities observed in the mouse oviduct depend on *Vangl2*. In addition, in spite of the uterine epithelial abnormalities reported in *Vangl2*<sup>L<sup>pt</sup>/+</sup> (Vandenberg and Sassoon, 2009), the polarized localization of *Celsr1*, the ciliary motion polarity and the epithelial fold polarity in adult *Vangl2*<sup>L<sup>pt</sup>/+</sup> female oviducts were apparently the same as those of wild type (data not shown), suggesting that the PCP pathway might still be functional in *Vangl2*<sup>L<sup>pt</sup>/+</sup>.

It is also known that the PCP pathway is one of the regulators of three-dimensional morphology in other systems (Nishimura et al., 2012). How are these tissue morphologies regulated through the

function of the PCP pathway? The alignment of muscle fibers surrounding the oviduct also could affect the morphology of folds. Recently, it has been reported that the formation of villi in the gut epithelium is regulated by the direction of muscle fibers surrounding the epithelium (Shyer et al., 2013). However, we concluded that this is not the case for the misoriented formation of folds in the *Celsr1* mutant oviduct, because, *Celsr1* is dominantly expressed in the epithelium and not in the muscle layer (Fig. 3C), and our mosaic analysis showed that *Celsr1* mutant clones in mesenchymal or muscle layers did not affect the morphology of the epithelium (data not shown). These data suggest that the epithelial fold morphology is regulated by oviduct epithelium that expresses *Celsr1*.



Nevertheless, mechanical tensions might be one of the unknown factors connecting the shape and the condition of each cell to the morphology of the epithelial sheet.

Cell proliferation is also a candidate factor in the regulation of epithelial morphology. However, we could not detect significant differences in the rate of bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU; an analog of thymidine) incorporation and in the localization of BrdU-positive cells between wild-type and *Celsr1* mutant oviduct at P5 (supplementary material Fig. S1A; data not shown). The orientation of cell division is also one of the important regulatory factors for tissue morphology (Yu et al., 2009), but the epithelial cell division angles relative to the fold in the *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mutant were not significantly different from those of wild type at P5 during 24 h of tissue culture time-lapse imaging (supplementary material Fig. S1B). Thus, it is suggested that cell division is not the major factor regulated by *Celsr1* to control the epithelial morphology of the oviduct.

Our analyses show newly identified functions of PCP genes, which regulate cell polarity and tissue morphology at multiple levels of the oviduct structure. The functions of PCP pathways in the polarization of cells are still unknown. The mechanism connecting cell polarities and three-dimensional tissue morphologies should be elucidated in the future.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Animals

Female mice (Slc; ICR, Japan SLC) were used for analyses of developmental processes (Figs 1, 2; supplementary material Movie 1). *Celsr1* mutant mice (Ravni et al., 2009) and R26-H2B-EGFP mice (Kurotaki et al., 2007) have been described previously. *Vangl2*<sup>L<sup>pm</sup></sup> mice were obtained from The Jackson Laboratory (LPT/LeJ 000220). Animal care and experiments were conducted in accordance with National Institutes of Natural Sciences, Animal Experiment Rules the Guidelines of Animal Experimentation. The experiments employed in this study were approved by The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of National Institutes of Natural Sciences. The animals were kept in a light and temperature-controlled room with a 12 h light:dark cycle at 22±1°C.

For *Celsr1* mutant mice, the primers used to detect the knockout allele were: forward primer 612 (5'-GAAAGAGACTGTTGGTGAGC-3') and reverse primer 615 (5'-CTCTGTTGACTTCTGACTGG-3'), yielding a PCR product of 592 bp. The primers for the wild-type allele were: forward primer 612 and reverse primer 613 (5'-CCACTCTGCTAACGGTAGG-3'), yielding a PCR product of 389 bp. For R26-H2B-EGFP knock-in mice, the primers used to detect the R26-H2B-EGFP allele were: forward primer Phil1 (5'-AAAGTCGCTCTGAGTTGTTAT-3') and reverse primer pA1 (5'-AAGGGGGAGGATTGGGAAGACA-3'), yielding a PCR product of 497 bp. The primers for the wild-type allele were: forward primer Phil1 and reverse primer Phil3 (5'-GGAGCGGGAGAAATGGATATG-3'), yielding a PCR product of 607 bp. LATAq or MightyAmp (TaKaRa) were used for the genotyping PCR experiments.

### RT-PCR

The oviducts were separated into three parts, the infundibulum, the ampulla and the isthmus. Total RNA was extracted from each part using an RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen), and then cDNA was synthesized using a SuperScript II First-Strand Synthesis System (Invitrogen). To check the expression of PCP genes in the oviduct, PCR analyses were performed using Platinum Taq DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen). The amplification conditions were as follows: denaturation at 94°C for 5 min, 35 cycles of 95°C denaturation for 20 s, 61°C annealing for 30 s and 72°C extension for 30 s. The primer pairs and the product size for each PCP gene are shown in supplementary material Table S1.

### Immunohistochemistry

Antibodies against *Celsr1* (dilution 1:100) were gifts from Elaine Fuchs and generated as previously described (Devenport and Fuchs, 2008). Anti-Vangl2

antibodies (1:500) were gifts from Mireille Montcouquiol (Montcouquiol et al., 2006). The following reagents were purchased: anti-acetylated  $\alpha$  tubulin (1:500; Sigma-Aldrich, no. T7451), Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies (1:500; Molecular Probes), Texas Red-X phalloidin (1:100; Molecular Probes, no. T7471) and Hoechst 33258 (1:1,000,000; Molecular Probes). The fluorescent images were taken using a Nikon A1 confocal microscope (Nikon) and FV-1000 confocal microscope (Olympus). Oviducts were dissected, opened longitudinally and fixed overnight with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>-free PBS at 4°C. After treatment with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS, samples were blocked with Blocking One (Nacalai Tesque) at room temperature and incubated with primary antibodies in Blocking One at 4°C overnight. After washes with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS, the samples were incubated with fluorescently labeled secondary antibodies at room temperature for 1 h. After washes, the oviducts were mounted with their apical side up in Fluoromount G (SouthernBiotech).

To produce tissue sections, the oviducts were embedded in Optimal Cutting Temperature (OCT) compound (Sakura Finetek), frozen in liquid nitrogen and sectioned (8  $\mu$ m) on a cryostat (OTF-5000; Bright Instrument). The cryosections were fixed with 4% PFA for 20 min at room temperature and stained using the same procedure described above for whole-mount preparations.

### Quantification of the polarity of *Celsr1* or phalloidin distribution within cell contours

The principle of the image analysis method for quantification of the polarity of staining signals within cell contours has been previously described (Aigouy et al., 2010). Maximum intensity projection (MIP) images of three serial single-channel confocal images (0.3  $\mu$ m thick) around the apical surface were created. The cell boundary was traced manually according to the phalloidin image, and the  $x, y$  coordinates of each cellular contour were recorded. The staining intensities (*Celsr1* or phalloidin) of the pixels in the contour were collected as  $I(x, y)$ .  $I(x, y)$  was transformed into  $I(r, \theta)$ , where  $r$  is the distance between the pixel and the center of the cell and  $\theta$  is the angle indicating the position of the pixel, with the fold direction set to  $\theta=0^\circ$ . Then, we calculated the average value of  $I(r, \theta)$  for each  $\theta$  section with a 5° range (e.g. 2.5°–7.5°, 7.5°–12.5°, etc.). The average value was set to  $S(\theta_m)$ , where  $\theta_m$  is the center  $\theta$  value of the section (e.g.  $\theta_m=5^\circ, 10^\circ$ , etc.). The polarity of the staining signals  $\phi$  ( $0^\circ \leq \phi < 180^\circ$ ) was determined for each cell to fit:  $\cos 2\phi = Q_1 / \sqrt{Q_1^2 + Q_2^2}$ ,  $\sin 2\phi = Q_2 / \sqrt{Q_1^2 + Q_2^2}$ , where  $Q_1 = \sum S(\theta_m) \cos 2\theta_m$ ,  $Q_2 = \sum S(\theta_m) \sin 2\theta_m$ . Processing was performed in ImageJ and Excel, and rose diagrams were drawn by using R.

### Observations of ciliary movements

The infundibular oviduct region was isolated and longitudinally opened. A piece of adhesive tape in the form of a ring was put on a glass slide to make a well, and opened oviducts were put into the well that had been filled with PBS. After covering with a coverslip, movies were quickly acquired at 200 frames/s for 2.5 s using an upright microscope (BX70; Olympus) with a digital high-speed CCD camera (HAS-220; Ditect) and a  $\times 40$  objective.

### Bead transport assay

Green fluorescent beads (FluoSpheres Polystyrene Microspheres, 15  $\mu$ m; Invitrogen, no. F21010) were applied to longitudinally opened oviducts in PBS, and images were captured by using a CCD camera (DP72; Olympus) with a stereomicroscope (MZFLIII; Leica).

### Electron microscopy

For transmission electron microscopy, oviducts were fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde and 2% PFA in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Tissues were treated with 2% OsO<sub>4</sub> in the same buffer. Fixed specimens were washed and dehydrated in a graded ethanol series, and reconstituted in propyleneoxide. Samples were pre-impregnated with a propyleneoxide: epon (Quetol 812) mixture, and impregnated with epon (Quetol 812). Then, samples were mounted into epon (Quetol 812) blocks for 48 h at 60°C to ensure polymerization. Ultrathin sections (80–90 nm) were cut using an ultramicrotome (ULTRACUT-UCT; Leica), stained with 2% uranyl acetate for 15 min and then with modified Sato's lead solution for

5 min. Sections were analyzed using a transmission electron microscope (JEM-1200EX; Jeol).

### Quantification of basal feet orientation

Circular variance  $S^2$  (Zar, 2010) of the basal feet orientation of each cell was calculated as:

$$S^2 = 1 - \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum \cos\theta}{n}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sum \sin\theta}{n}\right)^2},$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle of orientation of each cilium,  $n$  is the number of cilia in the cell. When we calculated  $S^2$  using the assumption that basal feet are randomly oriented for comparison, the number of cells and the number of cilia in each cell were set to be the same as that used for the analysis of *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup>.

### Quantification of cellular morphology

The apical cellular contours of phalloidin staining in confocal images were traced manually. The longest and shortest diameter ratio (the ratio of Feret's diameter to MiniFeret in ImageJ) and the orientation of the long axis (major angle in Fit Ellipse in ImageJ) were calculated for each cell. The value of the orientation angle was adjusted so that the angle of fold was 0°. Rose diagrams were drawn by using R.

### Mosaic analysis

*Celsr1*<sup>+/-</sup> mice were crossed with *Celsr1*<sup>+/-</sup>; homozygous *R26-H2B-EGFP* mice, and embryonic stem (ES) cell lines were established from the blastocysts, using a modified version of a previously described protocol (Kiyonari et al., 2010; Nichols et al., 2009; Ying et al., 2008). Briefly, embryos at E3.5 were cultured in 2i medium [ESGRO complete basal medium (Millipore) supplemented with 0.4 μM PD0325901 (Cayman Chemical), 3 μM CHIR99021 (Wako) and 1000 units/ml leukocyte inhibitory factor (LIF; Millipore)], on mouse embryonic fibroblast (MEF) feeder cells (ReproCELL). After 4–7 days, we trypsinized the clumps and replated them into new wells. For genotyping, ES cells were cultured without feeder cells, and then genomic DNA was extracted. *Celsr1* genotyping was performed by using LATaq or MightyAmp as described above. The sex of each clone was determined by using PCR for the Y chromosome-specific *Sry* gene [primers: Sry-M5 (5'-GTGGTGAGAGG-CACAAGTTGGC-3') and Sry-M3 (5'-CTGTGTAGGATCTTCAATC-TCT-3') (Kusaka et al., 2010)]. *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> or *Celsr1*<sup>+/-</sup>; *Sry* negative ES cell lines were used for generation of the chimera to avoid the cells with Y chromosome in the female chimera.

The chimera was generated by using a standard protocol (Behringer et al., 2014). We injected 5–15 trypsinized ES cells into each Jcl:MCH(ICR) blastocyst and then transferred the blastocysts to the uterus of a 2.5-day pseudopregnant ICR female mouse.

### BrdU incorporation assay

BrdU was injected intraperitoneally at 50 μg/g of body weight into P5 mice. Three hours later, oviducts were fixed in 4% PFA and embedded in paraffin. After blocking the endogenous peroxidase activity by using 0.6% hydrogen peroxide in methanol at room temperature for 40 minutes, 5 μm thick sections were obtained from the samples. Sections were incubated with anti-BrdU antibodies (1:500; Sigma-Aldrich, no. B2531) and stained by using the immunoperoxidase method using the VECTASTAIN ABC Kit (Vector Laboratories) according to a standard protocol. Sections were also stained with SIGMAFAST diaminobenzidine with Metal Enhancer tablet (Sigma-Aldrich, no. D0426). The number of BrdU-positive cells and the total cells in the epithelium were counted for multiple sections for each oviduct.

### Cell division angle analysis

The oviducts of *Celsr1*<sup>+/+</sup> or *Celsr1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice homozygous for *R26-H2B-EGFP* were longitudinally opened and placed in a glass-bottomed culture dish (MatTek, no. P35G-1.5-10-C). The epithelium of the opened oviducts was set to face the coverslip. The oviducts were cultured in 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>

for 24 h in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium with Nutrient Mixture F-12 containing 10% serum. For the time-lapse imaging of nuclear H2B-EGFP signal, an electron multiplying CCD camera (Cascade II, Photometrics) in combination with a spinning disc laser scan system (CSU10, Yokogawa) using a 488 nm diode laser driven by imaging software (Openlab, Improvion) was used as described previously (Kurotaki et al., 2007). Images of 2 μm interval optical sections were captured at 10 min intervals.

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### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

### Author contributions

D.S., K.K., H.K., T.U. and T.F. designed the study and wrote the manuscript. D.S. and K.K. performed most of the experiments and analyses. F.T. and A.M.G. generated *Celsr1* mutant mice. M.H. helped with cellular geometrical analyses. Y.T. provided technical assistance for ES cell experiments. T.F. performed blastocyst injections and supervised the project with T.U.

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### Supplementary material

Supplementary material available online at <http://dev.biologists.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1242/dev.115659/-/DC1>

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